



WORKING TOGETHER

CREATE A STRONGER BLOOMINGTON BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS AND PRIDE IN COMMUNITY

What do all Bloomington residents, business owners, employees and visitors have in common? We all have a vested interest in Bloomington's future success. The City of Bloomington builds strong partnerships to work toward creating a stronger, more vibrant community.

The City's vision for the future is to build and renew the community by providing quality services, promoting redevelopment and guiding growth in a more sustainable, fiscally sound manner. Although it plays a key role as catalyst and planner, the City needs community partners to help make Bloomington a stronger community. Below are just a few examples of partnerships that help us realize this vision.



FOR NEW MOTHERS

Public Health provides education and counseling to expectant mothers, new parents and families. They are a resource for health care questions about child growth and development. **Public Health Nutritionist Marianne Nelson** is shown above with Public Health's youngest "employee." She is a doll used by specialists and lactation consultants during Women, Infants and Children Clinics to demonstrate the proper way to hold and breastfeed an infant.

PROTECTING OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

POLICE TEAM UP WITH APARTMENT MANAGERS TO REDUCE CRIME

Community Property Manager for Penn Place Apartments Deb Beall met Bloomington **Police Officer Jim Caauwe** at her daughter's elementary school fundraiser more than 10 years ago. Since then, she has worked with Officer Caauwe on a number of projects through the City's Crime Free Multi-Housing Program, Citizen's Police Academy and a consortium of Bloomington apartment building managers. Their relationship has been instrumental in helping Penn Place Apartments go from 125 incident calls per year to almost zero.

"Jim is the first person I call when I need advice or ideas," Beall said. "He keeps us current on local crime trends and activities, and he has been instrumental in helping to bridge the gap between the immigrant population in our building and the police."

Caauwe, a Bloomington police officer for 15 years, said he enjoys working with apartment managers and others to solve tough problems. One of the biggest challenges he faces in his job

is gaining the trust of people who hold negative perceptions about police.

"Sometimes I work with people who don't see the benefit of having police on their side or think we only want to evict their tenants when in reality, we all have the same goal – to reduce crime," Caauwe said.

Community partnerships keep neighborhoods safe. The Bloomington Crime Free Multi-Housing Program is a collaborative effort among the Bloomington Police Department, rental property owners, managers and tenants. The program was designed to reduce crime and nuisance problems in rental properties.



"There are children in our building who think of Officer Caauwe as their own private police officer. All of our residents feel much safer now that we've been working with the Bloomington Police Department."

Deb Beall, resident and manager of Penn Place Apartments



"We've lived here since 1992. Our first interaction with the City was a great experience."

Al Konigson, resident, left

GOING THE EXTRA MILE

COMMUNICATION IS KEY TO MAKING ROADWORK GO SMOOTHLY

Bloomington residents Al and Carol Konigson never expected to enjoy the weeks-long experience of having their street sealed, and curbs and gutters replaced. Then they met **Engineering Technician Bob Simons**, who communicated to them everything that the City was doing, every step of the way. The open communication between the Konigsons and City engineers and contractors resulted in a great working relationship.

"The main challenge with any project is to be responsive to resident concerns and work with the contractor to resolve those concerns, while continuing with completion of the project," Simons said.

Simons said he makes it a point to meet with residents at the onset of any Pavement Management Program (PMP) work to let them know what to expect and to encourage them to contact him with any questions or concerns.

The PMP is a maintenance plan for streets. It involves performing periodic pavement sealcoats or overlays, so that a street's lifespan can be more than tripled before costly reconstruction is needed. The PMP project on Bush Lake Drive

involved a complete reconstruction of the street, including sealing cracks and replacing curbs and gutters on the cul-de-sac.

The Konigsons requested that when the contractors replaced the curbs in front of their property the driveway be widened. Since the work was already scheduled to be done, the City agreed to the request. Simons worked with the Konigsons to ensure that the project went smoothly.

"It was an excellent experience to work with Bob and the rest of the crew," Konigson said. "Everyone was extremely professional and a pleasure to be around."

Diane ~ Volunteer Firefighter ~ 10 years



"Educating residents about fire prevention and fire safety."

"All parties walk away with a strong sense of well-being."



Carol ~ Computer Analyst ~ 12 years